

Stages of the Writing Process

Stage	Definition	Strategies	What are you thinking about?
"Pre"-writing	Gathering materials, generating ideas, and thinking about what you want to write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading, underlining, margin notes ● Note-taking ● Listening ● Discussing ● Brainstorming ● Listing ● Recording yourself ● Free writing and loop writing ● Journal writing ● Idea maps/spider-grams ● Close-reading assignments ● Developing a provisional thesis ● Going for a walk with a notebook or piece of paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audience ● Purpose ● Selecting evidence ● Understanding and interpreting materials and assignment prompts ● Developing ideas
Organizing	Determining the order of elements in your essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal outlining ● Formal outlining ● Post-it notes or notecards ● White board and color coding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Answering the question(s) of the prompt ● The development of your argument ● Structure
Drafting	Creating versions of your composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your thoughts in linguistic form ● Rhetorical modes (narration, description, exposition, argumentation)
Revising	Making major changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reverse outlining ● Moving, cutting, adding paragraphs ● Reviewing topic sentences ● Discussing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The development of your argument ● Paragraph structure ● Working with professors' or peers' comments
Editing	Making sentence-level changes to your writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading aloud ● Reading from the end ● Paramedic method ● Looking for whether the main idea is in the main clause ● Grammar-specific searches (looking for e.g. passive voice if you don't want to be using it) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Style ● Diction and tone ● Mechanics, usage, and grammar ● Sentence structure and variety
Proof-reading	Final read-through for small errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read slowly in a format that allows you to see the text clearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mechanics
Presenting	Putting your work into its final form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formatting ● Final checks on notes and bibliography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audience ● Scholarly apparatus